

# AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

INFO: OTTAWA, MONTREAL

FROM : Amconsul, QUEBEC

DATE: January 26, 1966

SUBJECT: New Regional Administration Plan Proposed

REF :

After two years of study, the Bureau of Research of Quebec's Ministry of Industry and Commerce has submitted to the LESAGE Government a plan for the uniformization of the provincial administrative districts. If the Lesage Government enacts these recommendations into law, Quebec's old system of regional administration will be replaced by one suited to the needs of regional economic planning and a uniform system of county administration. In the words of the report, the plan will "...put an end to the anarchy and lack of uniformity in the regions system used by Government departments, commissions, and boards."

Towards this end, the report recommends the division of Quebec into ten regional districts. Six cities, Chicoutimi, Trois-Rivières, Sherbrooke, Montreal, Hull, and Rouyn-Noranda are named capital cities in various regional districts, while Quebec will serve as capital in its own region and in the regions of Gaspesia, the North Shore, and Lower St. Lawrence. Enclosure 1, a map of the Administrative Regions, describes the proposed regional districts.

The report further recommends that the regional districts be divided into twenty-five sub-regional districts in which there would be 18 sub-regional capitals acting as administrative centers and as "growth poles" for regional industrial development. In addition, sixteen smaller towns and municipalities throughout the province are named intermediate growth centers.

In the Speech from the Throne yesterday, the Lesage Government announced that; "In order to facilitate regional planning and develop-

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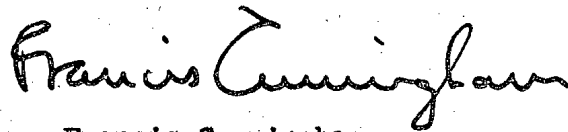
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Contents and Classification Approved by:  
F. Cunningham

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ment policies, the government, in concert with the Economic Advisory Council, has defined ten regions which henceforth will serve as a framework for its activities. The decentralization of administration and of community and cultural services will thereby emanate from a given number of centers, and highly organized regions will thus be constituted." As Le Soleil of January 24 commented, this plan might very well "...constitute an important step in regional development which everyone wants."



Francis Cunningham  
Consul General

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- Enclosure 1) Map of administrative regions  
2) Premier Lesage's press release of  
January 19, 1966

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